

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Fig. 5. Specifically, Fig. 5 has been amended to include reference characters R_1 and R_2 . No new matter has been added. Entry of the enclosed drawings is respectfully requested.

Attachment: Replacement Drawing Sheets

REMARKS

Claims 1-34 are pending. By this Amendment, Claims 9-11, 16, 22, 23, and 28-30 are amended, thereby leaving Claims 1-8, 12-15, 17-21, 24-27, and 31-34 unchanged.

Drawing Objections

The drawings stand objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a). Specifically, the Examiner objected to the drawings for failing to show “the radius of the protrusion being greater than the radius of the hook”. Accordingly, Applicants have amended the specification and the drawings to include reference characters R_1 and R_2 to more clearly identify the radius of the protuberances 76 and the radius of the protrusions 66. In view of the drawing amendments and the amendments to the specification, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objections to the drawings.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to Claims 9, 22, and 23 because Claims 9, 22, and 23 include minor typographical errors. As mentioned above, Claims 9, 22, and 23 have been amended. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objections to Claims 9, 22, and 23.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C § 102(b)

Claims 1-4, 6-13, 15-20, 22, and 28-34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,154,468 (“Teigen”) and Claims 1-3, 5, 10, 16, 18, 21, and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,511,301 (“Graham”). Reconsideration of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 specifies a door for use with a vehicle, the vehicle defining a load space and having an access opening communicating between the load space and atmosphere, the door comprising a first panel having an end, the end having an arm and a protuberance connected to the arm, together the end, the arm, and the protuberance defining an arcuately shaped recess, and a second panel having a hook, the hook being engageable in the arcuately shaped recess to pivotably connect the first panel and the second panel, the hook having an arcuate shape corresponding to the arcuately shaped recess.

Teigen does not teach or suggest, among other things, a first panel having an end, the end having an arm and a protuberance connected to the arm, together the end, the arm, and the protuberance defining an arcuately shaped recess. Rather, each of the panel sections 14 of Teigen include a hook edge 36, which extends upwardly and outwardly from an upper end of the panel section 14. The hook edge 36 defines a recess, which extends between a distal end of the hook edge 36 and a sidewall of the hook edge 36 for receiving a bottom edge 38 of an adjacent panel 14. As shown in Figs. 4A and 4B, the recess defined by the hook edge 36 is spaced a distance from an upper end of the panel section 14.

In addition, Teigen does not teach or suggest a hook having an arcuate shape corresponding to the arcuately shaped recess. Rather, the recesses defined by the hook edges 36 of the panel sections 14 of Teigen are substantially C-shaped, while the edges 38 of adjacent panel sections 14 provide generally linear portions, which are engageable between sidewalls of the hook edges 36 and distal ends of the hook edges 36.

For these and other reasons, Teigen does not teach or suggest all the claim limitations of independent Claim 1.

Graham does not teach or suggest, among other things, together the end, the arm, and the protuberance defining an arcuately shaped recess. Rather, top rails 21 extend across upper ends of sections 11, 12, 13. Horizontal base extensions 21E extend rearwardly from the top rails 21 and curved prongs 21P extend upwardly from the base extensions 21E. Curved pieces 22P extend downwardly and rearwardly from rearward sides of sections 12, 13, 14 and are engageable in recess defined between the base extensions 21E and the curved prongs 21P of adjacent sections. As shown in Fig. 5 of Graham, the recesses defined by the curved prongs 21P and the base extensions 21E are spaced above and behind the upper ends of the sections 12, 13, 14.

For these and other reasons, Graham does not teach or suggest all the claim limitations of independent Claim 1. Accordingly, independent Claim 1 is allowable. Claims 2-9 depend from independent Claim 1 and are allowable for the same and other reasons.

Claim 10 specifies a door for use with a vehicle, the vehicle defining a load space, having an access opening communicating between the load space and atmosphere, and having tracks positioned adjacent to the access opening, the door comprising a first panel having a first face and a lower end, and a second panel having a second face and an upper end, one of the lower end

and the upper end defining a recess, an other of the lower end and the upper end having a protrusion, the protrusion being engageable in the recess to pivotably connect the first panel and the second panel, the second panel being pivotable relative to the first panel between a first orientation, in which the second face is substantially perpendicular to the first face, and a second orientation, in which the second face is substantially parallel to the first face, the second panel being fixedly connected to the first panel when the second panel is in the second orientation and the second panel being removeably connected to the first panel when the second panel is in the first orientation. Claim 10 also specifies that the second panel is moveable between the first orientation and the second orientation when the first panel is supported in the tracks.

Teigen does not teach or suggest, among other things, a second panel being pivotable relative to the first panel between a first orientation, in which the second face is substantially perpendicular to the first face, and a second orientation, in which the second face is substantially parallel to the first face, the second panel being fixedly connected to the first panel when the second panel is in the second orientation and the second panel being removeably connected to the first panel when the second panel is in the first orientation. In addition, Teigen does not teach or suggest that the second panel is moveable between the first orientation and the second orientation when the first panel is supported in the tracks. Rather, the engagement between the upwardly-extending end of the hook edge 38 of an upper panel 14 and the recess defined by the hook edge 36 of a lower panel would prevent the upper panel 14 from being pivoted relative to the lower panel 14 toward a position, in which the outer surfaces of the upper and lower panels 14 are substantially perpendicular. Moreover, even if it were possible to pivot the upper and lower panel sections 14 of Teigen into such an orientation, a portion of the bottom hook 38 of the upper panel 14 would remain in locking engagement in the recess defined by the hook edge 36 of the lower panel 14.

For these and other reasons, Teigen does not teach or suggest all the claim limitations of independent Claim 10.

Graham does not teach or suggest, among other things, the second panel being pivotable relative to the first panel between a first orientation, in which the second face is substantially perpendicular to the first face, and a second orientation, in which the second face is substantially parallel to the first face, the second panel being fixedly connected to the first panel when the second panel is in the second orientation and the second panel being removeably connected to

the first panel when the second panel is in the first orientation and that the second panel is moveable between the first orientation and the second orientation when the first panel is supported in the tracks. Rather, the door of Graham is assembled by resting a male portion 22P of an upper panel section on a truss extension 21E of a lower panel section when the lower panel section is in a vertical position and then pushing the male portion 22P of the upper panel section into engagement with the recess of the lower section.

For these and other reasons, Graham does not teach or suggest all the claim limitations of independent Claim 10. Accordingly, independent Claim 10 is allowable. Claims 11-15 depend from independent Claim 10 and are allowable for the same and other reasons.

Claim 16 specifies a door for use with a vehicle, the vehicle defining a load space and having an access opening communicating between the load space and atmosphere, the door comprising a first panel having an end, the end having an arm, together the end and the arm defining an arcuately shaped recess, and a second panel having a hook, the hook being engageable in the arcuately shaped recess to pivotably connect the first panel and the second panel, the second panel and the hook being integrally formed from a thermally nonconductive material.

Teigen does not teach or suggest, among other things, a first panel having an end, the end having an arm, together the end and the arm defining an arcuately shaped recess. Rather, as explained above, the hook edge 36 defines a recess, which extends between a distal end of the hook edge 36 and a sidewall of the hook edge 36 for receiving a bottom edge 38 of an adjacent panel 14. As shown in Figs. 4A and 4B of Teigen, the recess defined by the hook edge 36 is spaced a distance from an upper end of the panel section 14.

For these and other reasons, Teigen does not teach or suggest all the claim limitations of independent Claim 16.

Graham does not teach or suggest, among other things, a first panel having an end, the end having an arm, together the end and the arm defining an arcuately shaped recess. Rather, as explained above, top rails 21 extend across upper ends of sections 11, 12, 13. Horizontal base extensions 21E extend rearwardly from the top rails 21 and curved prongs 21P extend upwardly from the base extensions 21E. Curved pieces 22P extend downwardly and rearwardly from rearward sides of sections 12, 13, 14 and are engageable in recess defined between the base extensions 21E and the curved prongs 21P of adjacent sections. As shown in Fig. 5 of Graham,

the recesses defined by the curved prongs 21P and the base extensions 21E are spaced above and behind the upper ends of the sections 12, 13, 14.

For these and other reasons, Graham does not teach or suggest all the claim limitations of independent Claim 16. Accordingly, independent Claim 16 is allowable. Claims 17-22 depend from independent Claim 16 and are allowable for the same and other reasons.

Claim 23 specifies a door panel comprising an elongated body having a first end and a second end, the first end having an arm and a protuberance formed at a distal end of the arm, together the first end, the arm, and the protuberance defining an arcuately shaped recess, the protuberance having a first radius, the second end having a hook, the hook having a second radius, the second radius being greater than the first radius.

Graham does not teach or suggest, among other things, the first end having an arm and a protuberance formed at a distal end of the arm, together the first end, the arm, and the protuberance defining an arcuately shaped recess. Rather, as explained above, top rails 21 extend across upper ends of sections 11, 12, 13. Horizontal base extensions 21E extend rearwardly from the top rails 21 and curved prongs 21P extend upwardly from the base extensions 21E. Curved pieces 22P extend downwardly and rearwardly from rearward sides of sections 12, 13, 14 and are engageable in recess defined between the base extensions 21E and the curved prongs 21P of adjacent sections. As shown in Fig. 5 of Graham, the recesses defined by the curved prongs 21P and the base extensions 21E are spaced above and behind the upper ends of the sections 12, 13, 14.

For these and other reasons, Graham does not teach or suggest all the claim limitations of independent Claim 23. Accordingly, independent Claim 23 is allowable. Claims 24-27 depend from independent Claim 23 and are allowable for the same and other reasons.

Claim 28 specifies a method of assembling a door for a vehicle, the vehicle having a load space and defining an access opening communicating between the load space and atmosphere, and having tracks positioned adjacent to the access opening, the method comprising providing a first panel having a first face and a lower end, inserting the first panel into the tracks, providing a second panel having a second face and an upper end, one of the lower end and the upper end defining a recess, an other of the lower end and the upper end having a protrusion, orienting the second panel in a first orientation, in which the second face is substantially perpendicular to the first face, and inserting the protrusion into the recess, and pivoting the second panel with respect

to the first panel toward a second orientation, in which the first face is substantially parallel to the second face, to matingly engage the first panel and the second panel after the first panel is inserted into the tracks.

Teigen does not teach or suggest, among other things, the act of orienting the second panel in a first orientation, in which the second face is substantially perpendicular to the first face, and inserting the protrusion into the recess. In addition, Teigen does not teach or suggest, the act of pivoting the second panel with respect to the first panel toward a second orientation, in which the first face is substantially parallel to the second face, to matingly engage the first panel and the second panel after the first panel is inserted into the tracks. Rather, if an upper panel section 14 of Teigen were oriented relative to a lower panel section 14 so that the outer surfaces of the upper and lower panel sections 14, 14 were substantially perpendicular, the upwardly-extending end of the bottom hook 38 of the upper panel section 14 and the substantially C-shaped end of the hook edge 36 of the lower panel 14 would prevent the bottom hook 38 of the upper panel section 14 from being inserted into the recess defined by the hook edge 36 of the lower panel section 14.

For these and other reasons, Teigen does not teach or suggest all the claim limitations of independent Claim 28. Accordingly, independent Claim 28 is allowable. Claims 29-31 depend from independent Claim 28 and are allowable for the same and other reasons.

Claim 32 specifies a method of assembling a door for a vehicle, the vehicle having a load space, defining an access opening communicating between the load space and atmosphere, and having tracks positioned adjacent to the access opening, the method comprising inserting a first panel into the tracks, coupling a second panel to the first panel after the first panel is inserted into the tracks, and inserting the second panel into the tracks for sliding movement along the tracks with the first panel.

Teigen does not teach or suggest, among other things, the act of coupling a second panel to the first panel after the first panel is inserted into the tracks. Rather, the shape of the bottom hook end 38 of an upper panel section 14 and the shape of the hook edge 36 of a lower panel section 14 would prevent the lower panel section 14 from being connected to the upper panel section 14 once the upper panel section 14 was inserted into the guiding track 16 of Teigen.

For these and other reasons, Teigen does not teach or suggest all the claim limitations of independent Claim 32. Accordingly, independent Claim 32 is allowable. Claims 33 and 34 depend from independent Claim 32 and are allowable for the same and other reasons.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C §§ 102(b) and 103(a)

Claim 14 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Graham and Claim 27 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Graham in view of Teigen. Reconsideration of the rejections is respectfully requested.

As mentioned above, Graham does not teach or suggest, the subject matter of Claim 10. Claim 14 depends from Claim 10 and is allowable for the same and other reasons.

As mentioned above, Graham does not teach or suggest, the subject matter of Claim 23. Claim 27 depends from Claim 23 and is allowable for the same and other reasons.

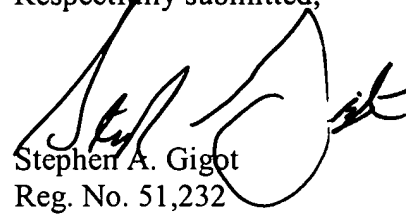
Teigen does not cure the deficiencies of Graham. In particular, Teigen does not teach or suggest, among other things, the first end having an arm and a protuberance formed at a distal end of the arm, together the first end, the arm, and the protuberance defining an arcuately shaped recess. Rather, each of the panel sections 14 of Teigen includes a hook edge 36, which extends upwardly and outwardly from an upper end of the panel section 14. The hook edge 36 defines a recess, which extends between a distal end of the hook edge 36 and a sidewall of the hook edge 36 for receiving a bottom edge 38 of an adjacent panel 14. As shown in Figs. 4A and 4B, the recess defined by the hook edge 36 is spaced a distance from an upper end of the panel section 14.

For these and other reasons, Graham and Teigen, either alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest all the claim limitations of Claim 27. Accordingly, Claim 27 is allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, entry of the present Amendment and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Stephen A. Gigot
Reg. No. 51,232

File No. 090402-9416-00
Michael Best & Friedrich LLP
100 E. Wisconsin Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53202
(414) 271-6560